DETAILED ACTION

EXAMINER'S NOTE

The method claim of the instant application **satisfies 35 USC 101** in that the steps of comparing a first image area in the first image and a second image area in a second image to obtain an image comparison result, resulting in a displacement represented by a selected test vector would necessarily require a particular machine.

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1.   An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Philip Jensen on December 17, 2009.

2.   The application has been amended as follows:

Amendment to the Claims:

Claim 1. (Amended) A method for determining a selection vector which represents a

displacement vector for a displacement of an image area from a first position in a first

image to a second position in a second image, the method comprising the steps of:

a) supplying a ~~predetermined~~ set of prediction vectors;

b) supplying a <u>predetermined</u> set of test vectors;

c) selecting at least one test vector from the set of test vectors, and performing an

image comparison between a first image area in the first image and a second image

area in the second image to obtain an image comparison result, where a position of the

second image area is displaced relative to the first image area by the at least one

selected test vector;

d) comparing the at least one selected test vector with at least one selected prediction

vector to obtain at least one vector comparison result for each selected test vector;

e) supplying at least one quality characteristic for each selected test vector from both

the image comparison result obtained for each selected test vector, and from the vector

comparison result for each selected test vector;

f) determining a ranking order of the quality characteristics; and

g) selecting one of the selected test vectors as the selection vector from the

predetermined set of test vectors based on the ranking order of the quality

characteristics.

Allowable Subject Matter

3.   **Claims 1-14 and 16-21as amended are allowed.**

4.   The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: the application is allowable due to the Applicant's amendment and convincing arguments.

The closest prior art deemed most relevant by the Examiner is Haan et al (True-Motion Estimation with 3-D Recursive Search block Matching, IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video Technology, 1993, Vol. 3, No. 5, 368-379). The application is distinguished from Haan as detailed in Applicant's Remarks, filed October 5, 2009 (Remarks, p 9-12). Hann does not disclose or suggest the limitations of the instant claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to THOMAS A. CONWAY whose telephone number is

(571)270-5851. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 8AM - 5PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Matthew Bella can be reached on 571-272-7778. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Thomas A. Conway/
Examiner, Art Unit 2624

/CHARLES KIM/
Primary Examiner, Art Unit 2624